

When I was a dj many years ago (for 13 years, 1965-1978) on WBAP here in Fort Worth among other stations, the media was limited to 7 stations and no two in the same market. I now see giants like Clear Channel Communications of San Antonio controlling one third of the entire radio/tv output of the United States, including owning 5 stations here in the DFW area and owning the two giant talk radio stations (KTRH and KPRC -where I was a dj 68-70) in Houston. This is a monopoly on public free speech that MUST be stopped!

I have seen the demise of the PSA. I have seen the charging of our military for spots previously given for free. I have seen the demise of the "public interest" programming. And I have seen the demise of true competition on the nation's airwaves.

I realize this is a new age where our grandchildren look at media far differently from us. However, when did media slip over the edge from being a community public servant that made a profit to a corporate cash cow? We, the elders, need to instill in our children the sense of giving in addition to making a profit. For these reasons, I outline what I see as the future of media in the United States.

I would like to see limits placed on media outlets similar to what was in place when I was on the air. Certainly, no company should be allowed to own more than one media outlet (radio/tv/press) in any one market. Certainly, no company should be allowed to own more than ten media outlets in the entire country. I would like to see free and fair access by public organizations (the armed forces, the public schools, the library, museums, non-profit hospitals, governments, Taping for the blind, etc. -the return of the PSA, if you will) as a condition of license. I would like to see free and fair access by political candidates to the media during a reasonable time prior to elections. This all would be a condition for acquiring a license to broadcast. And, last, I would like to see public auctions of the licenses for the nation's airwaves be held once a year for a five year term for all license holders, the resulting money to go into the general coffers to be shared by federal and local governments. That giant corporations make huge amounts of money while controlling our public discourse and they do it for free on airwaves that belong to "the people" is an outrage! Thank you for your consideration. This is an important issue. We very nearly have "propaganda" machines in place now. This must be fixed and soon!

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